VF - MOTR May 93

Mouth of the River

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Some news that's fit to print and some that probably isn't

Students Enjoy First Springfling

by Megan Armitage and Bill Simmons

"Springfling was kind of cool...They threw vinyl toys, played cool music, and had good grub," comments a junior on the events of Friday, May 14th. Springfling was an event organized by student council purely for fun according to Student Council President Amanda McAuley. It took the place of the winter festival we didn't have.

"The object was not to raise money for the prom or anything it was just something to end off the year," said McAuley. The student council wanted to break even on the event, but they lost money according to Amanda. "We didn't get as many people as we wanted too, but the people I talked to said they had a really great time."

Oyster River students were entertained by DJ's Ian Fitzpatrick and Chris Hansen. "They had good

Ambre Proulx and Scott Troxell pucker up at Spring Fling.

Spring Fling cont. on Pg.5

Rick Tappan, Bill Glazier, and Nicole Bellabona in Little Shop of Horrors.

Little Shop of Horrors a Success

by Margot Anderson

The stage lit up Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night last week with everything from wild plant life to three singing beauties. "Little Shop of Horrors", the spring musical this year, was an overwhelming success, despite some small problems.

There was a lot more behind the scenes than your average stage production. The show was co-directed by Kasey Evans and Dave Ervin, music teacher at the Middle school. The cast consisted of Rick Tappan as Seymour, Nicole Bellabona as Audrey, Bill Glazier as Mr. Mushnik, and Keith Friel as Orin the dentist. Nate Bean was the powerful voice behind the plant, while inside was Jillian Downey who controlled its movement. Evans and Ervin tried a new technique with the cast members. The leading roles were not given scripts, but instead just "sides". Sides consist of the last word of the last line as the cue and the actors and actresses have to decide which lines fit where. Nicole Bellabona, Audrey in the musical, commented, "The sides kept everyone on their toes. It sparked creativity and it worked out really well."

On the technical side, there was much to be built for the set. Audrey II, the plant, is often purchased or rented in this production, however some of Oyster

Little Shop cont. on Pg.5

Students Say, "Dasvedanya" as they leave St. Petersburg

by Amanda McAuley

Despite a dubious start involving a last-minute visa application and a missing bus, all students involved agreed that this year's student exchange with Russia was a success and an "incredible experience."

The students involved felt that it was amazingly different from life in America. Dawn Myrick described it as "total culture shock." Students had to make adjustments in regards to food and general lifestyle. Many agreed that, contrary to stereotype, Russian food is very good, but repetitive. The language barrier was huge because in most cases the parents of the host families did not speak English, while their children attended the english-speaking school.

ORHS students found the mafia influence in Russia is obvious. They came to recognize nicer cars as belonging to the mafia, and host families spoke casually of paying the mafia for "protection."

Students generally felt safe as long as they were with members of their host families or the whole group from Oyster River. Kimberly Anderson said, "I wouldn't want to walk the streets alone." Her journal was stolen by a group of Russian children.

Sarla DeGeorge and Karen Humphrey remarked on how paranoid and somber the Russians seemed. No one smiled and they were very afraid of the police and military. Scott Troxell and Chris Tibedo witnessed the shooting of a man on a street and the Russians reacted as though the event was commonplace. Host families said that it was not unusual to find dead bodies on the streets.

Despite these isolated incidents, the American students felt relatively safe during their stay in Russia. Karen Humphrey said that she felt as safe in St. Petersburg as she does in any large city. According to Mr. Herlihy the crime rate in this city of five million is on the rise, but it isn't as high as the murder rates in large American cities.

Money was an issue during the trip to the newly capitalistic country. Goods there are extremely inexpensive by American standards. Karen and Sarla felt guilty for spending their money on items like souvenirs, especially after Karen found out that her host mother's salary is equal to about $20 per month.

Students also felt guilty about personal items they brought with them - such as food. When asked by her host family why she brought these things with her, Sarla had to explain the media's negative portrayal of Russia.

Many close friendships developed between the Americans and the Russian teenagers of their host families. "You really get to know the people that you stay with. It's the people that I'll miss the most," said Kimberly.

One of Liam Crill's most memorable experiences during this trip was discussing communism with a Russian his age. The Russian felt that communism was an ideal, but simply not possible. Liam found that interesting. "You would think that now capitalism would be the ideal."

Oyster River students talked more than politics with their Russian counterparts. Sarla's host family included a 17-year-old girl and the two discussed being female in Russian society, sex, and the inaccessibility of contraceptives. Sarla was shocked,

Russia cont. on Pg.5

Oyster River students pose for a picture in Russia

Violence Coming to Oyster River?

by Kimberly Anderson

In January, a custodian and teacher died after a 17-year-old allegedly shot them in Grayson, Kentucky. . A 16-year-old student was stabbed to death when three other students barged into his social studies class and attacked him in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. In Walton, N.Y., a high school English teacher received a shattered jawbone when a 15-year-old shot her in the face with a rifle. At Traip Academy in Maine, a non-student walked into the school with a baseball bat and took it to a student's head.

Violence such as this is mainly associated with large metropolitan cities such as N.Y.C. and Los Angeles, but in recent times, violence has become a problem in more rural and small towns, not unlike Durham and surrounding areas.

"It's hard to think that anguish like that could happen at Oyster River," says freshman Tracy Freuder, "It's really scary."

What could be causing this recent string of violence? Sophomore Dave Diller has an idea, "Our role models are too violent. Every new movie is more violent than the last, just to get more of a blood-thirsty audience." He continued, "In 'The Untouchables', somebody gets their head bashed in with a bat. Only at Traip it happened in reality."

Sophomore Larissa Crockett doubts future violence at O.R. "There hasn't been violence before, I don't foresee it either." But there has been violence at O.R. Some years ago, a student with a black belt in karate thoroughly beat up another student, and although not murder, the victim had four teeth knocked out and was extremely hurt. The attacker had threatened teachers and students before his expulsion from O.R.

"This place is a time bomb waiting to go off. It's just like our society, so many angry people and not enough loving situations." said Ms. Winterbottom. She is expecting violence to hit soon.

Is there anything we can do to prevent it? On Wednesday, May 12, one of the issues at the May Faculty Meeting was increased security precautions

"This place is like a time bomb waiting to go off. It's just like our society, so many angry people and not enough loving situations." -Ms. Winterbottom.

from violence. Also on that day, all the public school principals in N.H. held a meeting and discussed the same topic.

"What can we do?" questioned sophomore Heather Carmichael, "In a school like Oyster River, metal detectors and security guards would just be an expensive joke."

According to the administration, there is not much we can do. Just keep an eye out for each other and listen to the safety rules, such as being out of the halls during free periods and not going on and off school grounds, no matter how absurd they seem.

Mouth of the River
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Students hack during lunch in the courtyard

New Policies for Senior Plays

by Mike Merenda

New policies concerning senior directed plays have been developed by the Performing Arts Council according to supervisor Mr. Tappan. New policies were deemed necessary due to problems that arose with two of the six plays Mr. Tappan explained.

"God", a play written by Woody Allen, was chosen by Todd Whitford and required a cast of over 20 people. About one week after casting, problems with "appropriateness" evolved. According to Mr. Tappan, the cast decided that they would rather not do the play because of an offensive script containing sexist remarks and vulgar, tasteless jokes. Whitford was given the opportunity to choose another play but time ran short.

"A Poet's Paradox", or "A Coffee House Cowboy", written by Chuck Bryon, was also recently "negged", again by the cast. The main reason for canceling the play was due to the script not being developed enough to be considered ready for performance explained Chris Kaseiwicz. There was a possibility for Bryon's play to be finished by the entire cast, thus making it a process play, but this idea was lost when Bryon left the country before this process even started. This episode led to a second new policy: no process plays. Without strict and organized supervision (like EXPLO for instance) process plays are extremely hard to write. All student written plays wanting to be done as a senior directed play must be in by an appropriate deadline as a complete and workable draft.

The two plays that were performed during this half of the year were "Of Widows and Vegetables" written by Michael Scanlan and directed by Megan Armitage and "Ibis Tern" written and directed by Val Kasper. "Of Widows and Vegetables" was considered "a stretch," by Mr. Tappan who supervised. "I was worried about both plays in terms of their potential to offend segments of the public. However, they proved that there is a great deal of respect for broad freedom of speech," Mr. Tappan added.

"I think that if you want to be realistic, the administration should realize that a play from 1908 isn't going to be funny and the reason why most things are funny is because they're not politically correct or conservative issues," said director Megan Armitage. Mr. Tappan tended to agree but added, "You couldn't take the play as a statement."

Ibis Tern was a surrealistic and almost frightening play. "It had great thematic merit," said Mr. Tappan. However, Armitage, Kasper and Mr. Tappan all agreed that it didn't fit well with the other play.

All in all the plays that were performed seemed to be well received by the audience which will ensure the tradition of senior directed plays in the future although the rules are tightened up a bit.

Students spectate during a baseball game

OP/ED

Save the school too...

As you walk through the halls here at ORHS, you see the walls covered in "Save the Planet" with trash neatly sprinkled below. Our school has a problem, we don't respect the building we come to learn in. Everyone wants to "save the environment", yet the place we spend most of our time in is probably the most polluted.

Something needs to be done. Peoples attitudes must change. Our courtyard is supposed to be a nice place where students can go and get fresh air, and it definitely has the potential to be that. But as it is right now, it looks like a dump after a windy day.

Do students really care about the environment? The posters, the t-shirts, the workshops all mean nothing until we can respect our school. If we can not keep the place we spend all this time at clean, then how can we keep the earth unpolluted? We all want a clean town, state, country, and planet, but it must start in our own community. The school halls and courtyard are our first steps toward a cleaner environment.

We believe a change is necessary, and we ask that the students in this school help reach the goal of a clean school. This school is part of our environment, so let's practice what we preach.

A Lounge in the Cafeteria??????

Look at our cafeteria with an objective eye. It is open all day to juniors and seniors. Is it clean, neat, and inviting? Do students take pride in it? What could be done to make it an inviting place?

Some students and their teachers have crafted a plan to raise money with the goal of establishing a lounge area in the cafe. Much planning has gone into the final proposal which includes upholstered sofas to take the place of tables in front of the stage. To seat all at lunch time, some of you will have to eat sitting on the couch.

Those of us who see the cafe every day are afraid. Will students control their behavior? Will upholstered furniture be treated well to eliminate the need for frequent cleaning? Can you treat your school with respect, since it is your home away from home?

Students picking up after themselves is something to be expected, and young adults should not need to be reminded to leave an area as clean or cleaner than it was found. We, the food service employees who see you daily, know there is potential. We want you to have a space of which you can be proud. Why not start today? Take care of your mess. If a friend leaves a mess, call her or him on it.

The employees of Oyster River School Food Service want you to succeed. We have a suggestion. CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF, STARTING TODAY!

-Mrs. Langley and the Cafeteria Staff

Commentary by **Bob Murphy**

It seems to me that this high school focuses more on images than it does on academics. If the images are not up to par with the administration, then those people are discriminated against. Does our society not encourage us to be different? The Oyster River culture is more focused on a Ward and June Cleaver culture than it is with a diverse, open-minded culture. So be it if the kids are smoking Camels or wearing pocket protectors, let them be. We are all our own people. Its understandable that the administration has a problem with that but things have changed from the 50's, this is the 90's and to beiing different brings a positive future for our generation.

Oyster River is up discretion creek without a paddle if somebody doesn't let our administration know how we feel. It's plenty being in classes fo- seven hours but to be questioned every time you're in the hallway kind of upsets me. This high schoo has so many rules which I followed in Elementary school, the only difference is there's no nap time anc we don't have to have the buddy system leaving classes anymore. It's like we are bums in our own hallways, always being told to move on.

Do they honestly think that bugging us and giving us a bad name will change anything? No, of course it wont. It just brings the students closer together and to plot revenge; that gets us nowhere. For example, a fellow student and senior had a get together to bond (nothing illegal!) with other seniors, which the administration found out about, blew totally out of proportion, and extended the truth. They accused this person of things they didn't and wouldn't do.

I'd also like to clear something that the Junior guys have been accused of. No, we are not "troublemakers" and we are not "druggies", we are kids that apparently have grown up through our high school years and we hope that you will to. Not only for us but for O.R. students to come. If you had any idea what great guys my friends were you would realize that you're wasting your time, time that could be spent uniting our students with the administration. We have many problems to face. My suggestion would be to assemble with the students and discuss our thoughts and problems with yours and maybe, for a change, make a compromise. It might be a better place for all of us.

Are we unethical?

Commentary by **John Slippy**

Recently a survey was taken to find out where OR students stand on ethics and morals. An article was also written stating the results and a few facts. The results showed an amazing decline from moral values which have been held in high respect for many generations. However, I was appalled to discover that some of the worst assumptions about teen values and behaviors may be true.

There were many important questions in the MOR survey. There were questions dealing with issues of respect for authority, feelings of being accepted and respected by adults and peers, cheating, stealing, bad language, drugs and alcohol, religion, feelings toward parents, etc.

After tallying up the answers to the surveys, it appeared that attitudes toward sex represented the greatest change over traditional values. In fact, it seems that many people now see sex as just another form of recreation.

The generation of highschoolers that is currently attending OR is somewhat unique in the fact that we have gone through adolescence for the most part as "free birds". We live in a society now that tells us, "You just be yourself. Do whatever you want to do as long as you're happy and satisfied with yourself and as long as you don't hurt anybody."

Is there anything wrong with this picture? We have been told by T.V., movies, modern music, advertising, teachers, and sometimes even parents, "since you're going to have sex, just make sure you are safe." The hidden message is that there is nothing wrong with going out and having "safe sex". This is apparently the message that has been received by many students at Oyster River, even though national studies show that over 50% of sexually active teenagers neglect to protect themselves. There was a surprising amount of affirmative answers to question #2 on the survey. The question asked whether or not students agree that "Having sex with people whom you don't have a loving relationship with is O.K. as long as it is mutual." 23.3% of the responses were in agreement

Ethics cont. on Pg.4

Ethics cont. from Pg.3

with that statement--nearly one out of four of us apparently accept promiscuity as moral.

Many students also expressed that it was okay to have sex with someone as long as you cared for them and it was mutual. The majority of students (nearly 70%) also expressed that it was perfectly all right to have sex before marriage.

When students are "being educated" about sex, much is said about how to go about it the right way. Then, almost as if to say, "Oh, by the way, there is also this thing called abstinence." Again, the hidden message is that abstinence is absurd, so why bother to give it any consideration. Have you ever considered the joy and satisfaction of marrying somebody you love and having it be "the first time" for both of you? There would not even be the slightest worry about whether or not it's SAFE!

I do not mean to sound like Dr. Ruth. Although, even Dr. Ruth strongly advises young people to wait as long as possible before having sex as it requires much responsibility and can cause **much** emotional pain, as many OR students know.

Imagine for a moment that you are an adult bring up several children. You have seen them grow up. You have taught them how to become respectable people and productive members of society. You love them. Would you want your children leading a lifestyle of free and easy sex? Would you be comfortable with that considering how STD'S are so rapidly spreading **today**.

Here's another question. Can a current lifestyle of free sex or casual sex or even sex with the person you happen to be dating now, lead to a committed, faithful, monogamous marriage? Would you want to have children if you end up in multiple marriages, or would you want to spare them the difficulties of divorce?

They say practice makes perfect, and old habits are hard to break. Are we developing bad sex habits? Are we at all interested in reducing the skyrocketing numbers of broken marriages and families in our country and in the world?

There is **one** sure fire way to have safe sex. Wait until you've found the right person. Marry them. Then you know you're safe, **especially** if they have waited too. Don't say that those kind of people aren't around. I am proof of that. My virginity is a gift that is only going to be given to one woman. I don't want to just give it to the first available bidder.

One of the most shocking findings from the survey was that the younger students-ninth graders--had the loosest attitudes toward sex.

The senior class had the fewest affirmative responses to question #2 (quoted earlier), while the freshmen had the most.

In writing a commentary, I have the privilege of including my **own** personal view on the subject. I do not believe I would be capable of handling the pressures of sex and my body's hormones without the help of some other source. My deep moral convictions and my faith in Jesus Christ, help me to deal with these pressures. When the survey came to the question of religion and how much of a role it played in people's lives, a strong majority of the responses were negative. This disturbed me personally because of the tremendous amount of strength I rely on daily that comes from my relationship with Jesus Christ. I wish that more people could have the peace in their lives that I have because of my faith.

"Hey Ted, what's a euphemism?"
"Quiet Study."

Renovations to be complate by Sept.

Elevator, Ramps, and New Doors

by **Andy Dolph**

This summer the building will be modified so that it is wheel chair accessible. The modifications will include elevator access to the second floor, an enlarged nurses office, the widening of some doors, and a ramp coming up to the front entrance.

The elevator will go from the guidance conference room to room 103. Both rooms will lose 100 square feet of space. It will be key operated and used by handicapped people only, according to principle Ann Brown.

Another requirement is an enlarged nurse's office including a larger bathroom. To accommodate this, what is now the guidance office will become the nurses office. The nurse will use what is now Mrs. MacKay's office, one of the two front office secretaries will remain at the counter. Brown said that she will act as a receptionist for the nurse, and will hand out band aids, cough drops, etc...

The Guidance department will be moved to what is now the front office. Mr Hall and Mrs. MacKay will use what are now the Assistant Principle's offices. One of the assistant principles will use what is now Mr. Hall's office and the other assistant principle, along with the other front office secretary will use what is now the nurse's office. Students needing late passes will go to what is now the nurses office to get them. Brown said of the renovations, "It's all about change."

According to ORSD Business Administrator Michael Everngam the current front door will be replaced with two 32 inch doors and a 36 inch door. The cafe and gym doors will also be replaced with wider ones. Everngam stated that the district is still considering several options to accommodate the need for a person in a wheel chair to open the doors themselves. One possibility is push button operated electric doors, the other is counter-weighting the doors so they are very easy to open.

Students to enter Armed Services

by **Mike Johnston**

At this time of year most seniors are done with the college application experience and are arranging summer visits and residence plans. Some Oyster River students have chosen quite a different path. Within a few short months these alumni will be attending basic training, the entrance into our Armed Services.

The students who have enlisted have done so, for very definite reasons, but not as many students think, to kill people or vent some primordial battle-lust like anger. These enlistees want to serve our country by defending it and our allies, to make a great sacrifice for the American people.

This sacrifice will begin for most after graduation when they attend basic training. This is an overview of my training, starting with basic training.

I will be leaving for Marine Corps boot-camp between June and October. Once at Parris Island, South Carolina, a stretch of swamp and sand in the middle of nowhere, I will begin doing push-ups and exercises galore, learning basic drill, and firing a rifle. I will learn Marine Corps history, military conduct, close combat, and field survival. After 13 weeks of extensive physical and mental training and angry drill-instructors, I will have only 10 days before I return to Camp Lejune, North Carolina. After 4 weeks of Marine Combat Training where I will fire some of the most advanced weapons in the world I will undergo advanced Infantry Training for six weeks. Then I proceed to San Diego, California, where I will be on constant call to go and serve my country on some distant land.

This is similar to what all military enlistees will undergo, minus the MCT and AIT which varies from service to service and amongst job training. All college students, who thanks to the Montgomery G.I. Bill receive up to $17,000 in college aid, less if reserve.

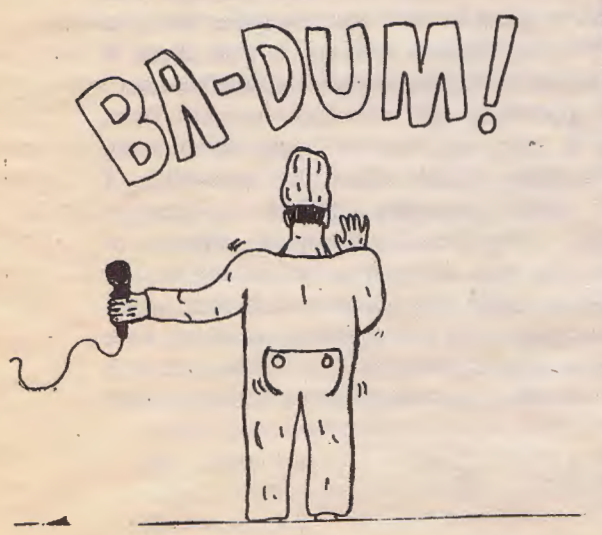
There is also R.O.T.C., where two to four year full-scholarships are available to the physical and intellectual student willing to commit four years as a military officer. Or there the academies for the exceptionally qualified student. Seniors Mark Derrochi and Garrick Olson are attending academies next year. Mark will be attending a year at the West Point prep school where he will then move on to the academy. Garrick is attending the Maine Maritime Academy.

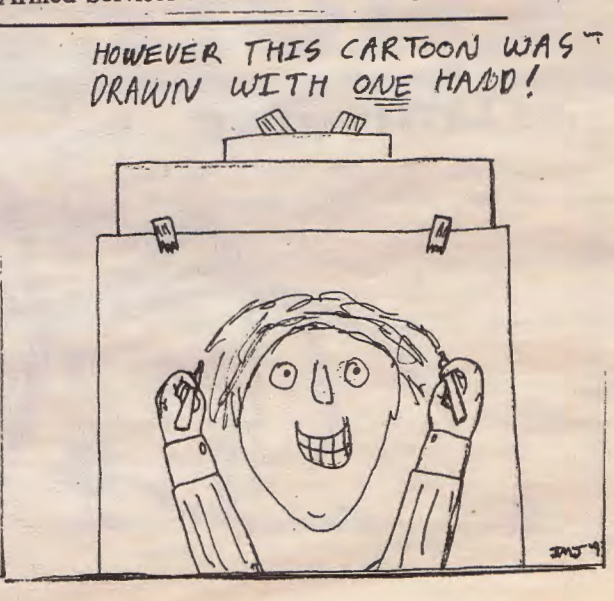
Some other students planning on entering the military are Cot Chanthakoumane and Ken Gowen who are signed up for the National Guard and Phil Nazzaro who plans to reapply to West Point after a year at U.N.H.

Some former graduates involved in the service are '91 graduate Ralph Nazzaro who is involved in R.O.T.C. in U.N.H. and '92 graduate Jim Spires who is currently enlisted in the Marines.

No matter what branch these students have opted to serve in they have committed themselves to many things.Not only have they sacrificed their few precious years of young adulthood but they have demonstrated that they are willing to lay down their life in service to their country. Students entering the Armed Services are in for an exciting career.

The Talent Show by Mike Johnston





Wiswall
The Cool Place to Hang Out This Summer

by **Danny Gault**

With spring in full swing and summer almost upon us, it is not uncommon for temperatures to reach up into the 90's. With a lack of local swimming pools "Wiswall" has become an attractive place to swim and hang out.

On any given day you can drive over the one lane bridge over the Lamprey River and view 10-20 high school students donning bathing suits. The place to enter the water from, according to sophomore Jay Belmore, is "on the right hand side about 15 feet from the end." Although no one knows exactly how deep the water that flows under the bridge actually is, it is sworn to be adequate for jumping.

If you think about it, Durham does seem to have a lack of public swimming areas. Although there is the Durham Pool located right in town, it is rarely graced with the pleasure of high schoolers. And there are only a lucky few who own a private swimming pool.

So what is it that makes Wiswall so popular? "I don't like the thought of swimming with eels and snakes, but it is a great place to cool off," says sophomore Kimberly Anderson. Senior Darren Miller agrees "sometimes when school gets me down, I jump in my car and head out to Wiswall, take the plunge, and all my worries are washed away."

So when you are hanging out all by your lonesome at Store 24, head on over to the Lamprey River to where the action is. As the days get longer and the sun shines brighter, Wiswall is going to be the place to be.

Lori Anderson, Meileige Rodriguez, and Daphne Turcotte pose on Skid Row.

Summer Plans Varied for Teachers and Students

by **Chris Kasewitz**

As most of us know the school year is rapidly coming to a close. For the seniors it is coming sooner than you might expect. The *Mouth of the River* conducted a poll, which included students and teachers alike, to find out what people had planned for the upcoming summer break, and here are the results of the poll.

The majority of the school is either "hanging out at home.", or "working". But there are some who have quite an adventurous summer waiting ahead of them. Travel seemed to be one of the major themes in the poll. Senior Scott Rideout is going to France, and so is Junior Marni Thibault. Senior Terrance Tsang is returning home to Hong Kong, China. "I'm going home to see my friends and family. I might get a job, but I'm definitely going stay out wicked late." Garrick Olson, senior, is going to Dublin, Ireland with Alan Conlan, a former exchange student from Ireland, who currently attends Plymouth State. Senior Jen Robertson is traveling to Anarbour, Michigan to compete, as a finalist, in the National Harp Competition. Sophomore Karl Weidhaas is moving to Montana.

Another popular theme this summer is going to camp. Many juniors, including Amy Swift, Kasey Evans, Amanda McAuley, Beth Dell, Kim Golding, and Jillian Downey, are going to St. Pauls in Concord, NH. According to Evans,"It is a chance for me to work intensely on a subject I have great interest in." Subjects range from Shakespeare to Law and Government to German, all of which last for six weeks and begin one week after school is out.

Sophomore Meiliege Rodrieguez is going to the Summer Youth Music Seminar, or SYMS. She will be attending on scholarship to study vocals and piano. "I'm excited to go, I want to learn how to read music.", commented Rodrieguez. Junior Alexia Taylor is also going to music camp, but at Northwestern University.

Students aren't the only ones who have a wild summer ahead of them. A few teachers are also going on great adventures. Diane Angelini is traveling to Italy with her husband on business. But it isn't going to be all suits and ties, they are also going to do the Tourist thing as well. "It should be a wicked awesome time," commented Angelini.

Mrs. Houseman is taking an oceanography course as well as a course in sign language, While Mrs. Morgan (a.k.a. Ms. Whitten) is going to attend the National Editing Institute for ten days to learn how to edit historical documents.

So as you can see there are some pretty interesting things happening this summer. But don't feel bad if you weren't mentioned, you are among the masses.

Russia cont. from Pg.1

"That discussion, more than anything else, showed me how lucky I am to live in the society that I do."

Chuck Bryon commented, "To every person, every country other than their own always looks better until they get there." Chuck mirrored Sarla's relief about living in the US. He always wanted to live in Russia, but was glad to come home. He compared the atmosphere of St. Petersburg to that of Paris, saying that it was very romantic. Ian Fitzpatrick agreed and said, "I enjoyed getting close to the Russians."

A total of 15 students and three parents travelled with Mr. Herlihy to Russia on this almost annual exchange with English-speaking School 185 in St. Petersburg. Students left on Thursday, April 22nd, arrived in Russia on Friday, April 23rd, spent about 15 days with host families in and around the city, left St. Petersburg and arrived in Durham on Saturday, May 8th.

The group included seniors Scott Troxell, Sarla DeGeorge, Ian Fitzpatrick, Chuck Bryon, Dawn Myrick, and Aline Pitombeira; sophomores Karen Humphrey, Liam Crill, Kimberly Anderson, and Jenna Sunderland; freshmen Paul Donahue, Stephan Cline, Thongpaseuth Chanthahoumane, Colin Murphy, and Chris Tibedo, and parents Martha Humphrey, and Rita and Patrick Murphy.

Little Shop cont. from Pg.1

River's finest built this one. The cast and crew had to also build the shop and paint two backdrops.

As for problems, there were only a few. On the day of the first production, Mr. Mushnik, played by Billy Glazier did not make it to school on time and at the last minute Val Kasper who was originally a band member, had to be an understudy. Kasper stated,"I haven't washed my hair in a really long time so it styled easier backstage." According to the cast members, there were a few missed lines but overall the first night was great considering the circumstances.

A pit band of Oyster River students accompanied the singing talent of the cast. Guitar player and technical engineer Christopher Weisman said, "This is my first time in a pit band and it's really keen to be on the inside of fruit by the seed." Owain Harris designed the show's program which consisted of some local advertisements as well as comments from the cast. Harris commented that the program was "the best darn one he had ever seen."

According to most audience members, the musical comedy was very impressive for a high school production.

Spring Fling cont. from Pg.1

variety of tunes and they even played a song from Fly Spinach Fly," commented one sophomore.

"I loved it. I had a great time," said senior Gabe Wallman. "It was definitely the event of the year. Undoubtedly. I'm going to Montana a complete and whole person."

Besides volleyball, softball, tennis, and dancing, the student council rented a dunking booth. Mr. Perry, Gabe Wallman, Scott Troxell, and Nicole Beck were some of the victims of the cold water. One of the dunkees commented, "It was a shock. I was just leaning back against the wall humming a favorite tune of mine when all of the sudden the board plummeted beneath me and I was submerged in sub-zero arctic water."

Not every student was completely satisfied with Springfling. "The basic consensus was that it was a lot of fun, they put a lot of effort into it, but not a lot of people showed up so it wasn't worth it," commented Mike Johnston.

The juniors won the spirit week competition and they received the $100 prize from student council.

Student council is also planning a make-your-own sundae smorgasbord on May 26 or May 27 after school from the leftover Springfling ice cream.

5K CROSS COUNTRY RACE AND FUN RUN

TO BENEFIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A STUDENT LOUNGE AREA

SUNDAY, JUNE 6th AT 11:00 AM ORHS

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 9:30AM

RACE DIVISIONS: ADVANCED
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NON-RUNNER

PRIZES IN ALL DIVISIONS

COST: $6.00 BEFORE THE RACE
$8.00 DAY OF RACE
$3.00 WITH PLEDGE SHEET

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Learning freedom by Losing it

commentary by **Fred Riley**

Walking among the grey halls of the Strafford County Corrections facility, I realized that the oppression one must feel is overwhelming. The guards in their clean blue suits are stationed all about the place. Here one needs to be escorted to pass through any door. The design is simple, offer no chance of escape and no weapon to hurt with.

Although the silent maximum security ward was the most intimidating, and the leering, hungry stares of those in the medium security ward made you feel abashed in sewage and hate, it was the minimum security dormitory that made me think the most. And I learned that even though I've been in school for twelve years and have been grounded and punished many times, I know little of life as a caged animal.

An unfortunate fact about crime is that you do not have to have amoral or evil intentions to land yourself in prison. The common criminal, one who shoplifts, sells drugs, or is involved with violence are all results of a society that has turned its back on those who have learned differently. They look to survive and if they can, be happy at the risk of living outside of the law. Yet even among the best of intentions lies stark ignorance.

Shoplifters and burglars generally don't think about how the loss of their newly acquired object hurts those that they stole it from.

Even the most benevolent, friendly, intelligent and good natured of drug users and dealers must not see that they support pain and death. The truth is, drugs and drug lords kill. The high stakes drug dealer is only in the business for money, and rarely cares for their customers. Few deal directly with drug lords, so few know exactly how much pain they cause. Even the local dealer who gets a quarter pound of pot a week is just at the nickel and dime end of drug trade.

At this time the inmate turned to a friend and commented "You're all driving without a license." What did this mean? Perhaps a personal joke, or perhaps he was implying that I will never know what he's been through unless I have the same experiences. With this thought in mind, I realized that they are caged animals, and that the loss of freedom does not rehabilitate their criminal flaws, does not erase the pain of their individual lives. It just shows them that if they get caught, Free America is taken away.

One person cannot know another's pain. Maybe they can relate, but never know. We judge others by many things that we can never understand, and many times we don't even try. I can see why the frustrations of law enforcement make it necessary to punish men and women for infringing on the rights of others, but in the corrupt society we live in, don't we all indirectly do that. I will never hope to understand the lives of those jailed. I have never been treated as an animal, and I hope I never am.

I talked to a man in minimum security, and he asked if we were on a field trip, if we had seen it all. A friend of mine commented that the dorm was the nicest part of the jail.

Baseball off to winning start. Heads off to finals.

by Erica Along

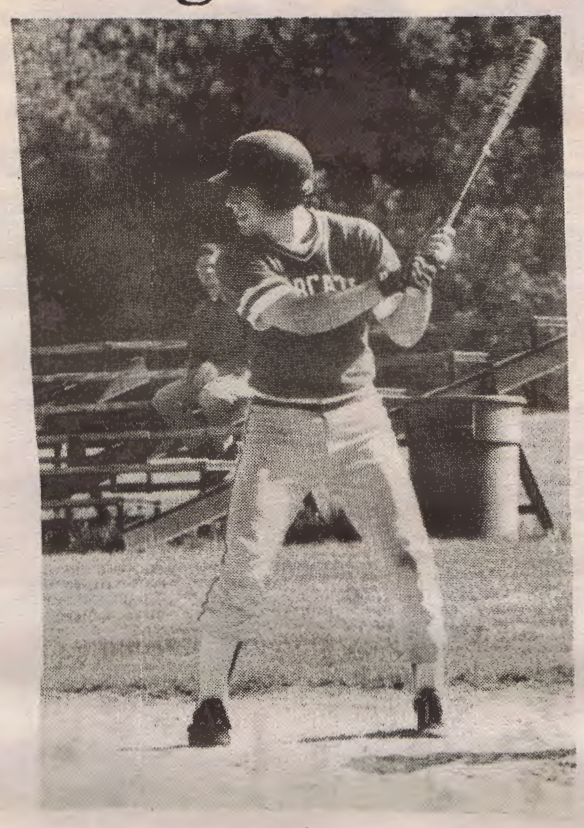
With 12 returning players, it's no surprise that the varsity baseball team is off to a good start, with a record of 9 wins and 6 losses. "With a majority of upperclassmen, the team has a lot of talent and experience," commented senior starter Jeff Stacy. "This year's team has added only three underclassmen to the lineup, and adjusting to the change has not been difficult," Stacy added.

"They (the underclassmen) are a big factor in the team's winning record, and the freshmen have come up with a lot of the clutch plays," said junior Mike Merenda. He also added that there aren't many conflicting personalities between upperclassmen and rookies since were usually on the winning track."

"It's our hitting that's hurting us," claims ORHS varsity coach Jerry LaChance. "Once we get our offensive game down we can take our playing a step further. This year's team is a real improvement from last year. All the players have a lot of experience and next season should be excellent with the loss of only three starting seniors."

Although the team started out strong, dropping only one of their first seven games, the last 4 losses can be attributed to the team's overall hitting slump for many of the players. "The team seems to be in a rut offensively. If we can get on base, our coach will figure out a way to get us in, but if you can't get on base, you're not likely to get home," quoted one player.

Much of the success thus far is due largely to junior pitcher Randy Henry who has collected four wins and averages at least one "K" per inning. Another key player who has helped in the team's success is rookie Brad Taylor who has the team's highest batting average and leads in RBIs.



Tucker Katz at bat

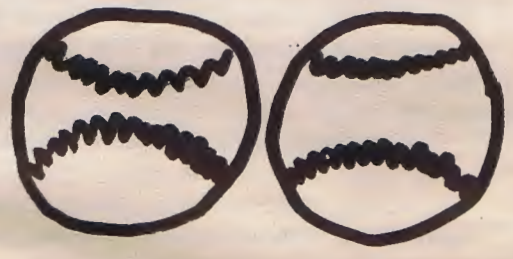
One of the team's more exciting games came when they beat Timberlane by a score of 7 to 4. Gabe Wallman attributed the win to consistent pitching throughout the game by senior Jeff Stacy, and finally coming through with the offensive side of the game pulling through with yet another victory.

In their Wednesday game against Saint Thomas, OR came through with a winning score of 11 to 6. The Cats' scored the 11 runs despite only squeaking out 5 hits. They took advantage of these 5 hits along with numerous walks and errors, mixed with timely running and bunting to score the runs. Only five of OR's runs were earned.

In Friday's game against Timberlane, the Bobcats returned to their offensive woes as they could only pass one runner across the plate. Despite this, OR was receiving an outstanding pitching performance from Randy Henry and good fielding through the first 5 innings. In the bottom of the sixth however, the Owls broke through with 2 runs. With a man on first, Timberlane sacrificed. Unfortunately for OR Andy Dumont's throw sailed high allowing men on first and third with no outs. A walk, wild pitch, and hit later Timberlane had done its damage with 2 runs.

The Bobcats hopes quickly arose with a leadoff double by Matt Blasik. However, the last three Cats' were set down and Timberlane walked away with a 3-1 win. Due to bad calls by the umpires, the game is currently under protest.

OR completes their season at Sanborn today and at home vs. Laconia tomorrow. They begin their drive toward a possible championship on Wednesday, June 2.



Changes for Girl's Softball: Varsity wins, JV created

by Jay Belmore

After a 48 game losing streak lasting three years, the women's softball team won not one game, but two!

"It was really a good feeling to know that you're making history. The win can be attributed to every player on the team; it wasn't an individual victory," commented senior Erica Along on their May 8th victory. According to team members, their triumph wasn't too much of a surprise. As far as the rest of the season goes, it looks optimistic. "We have the attitude, intensity, and thirst quenching desire to win, but we'll have to see if we can keep it together towards the end of the season if we expect to win some more games," said pitcher Kelly DeForest.

New head coach Lynn Spang seems to be doing everything right so far. "She's great, she understands us, lifts us up when we're down, and being a softball alumnus she understands the game well," said freshman Jessica Houle. Spang looks as though she is a big factor in the teams success. "Lynn deserves a lot of credit. I can't say she's the only reason we're winning, but she's bringing us together as a team and that helps for our quest for victory," commented sophomore Sarah Varney.

The girls next game is May 24 at home, and they're hoping for another win.

Missy Dumont swings

This is the first year that Oyster River has ever had a girls JV softball team. Though winless "we're a team," says Laurie McDowell.

They have uniforms (the old JV boys baseball uniforms) and "cool" mesh hats, but because the team was not concieved until too many girls that showed up for try-outs; there was not much time for planning. There was no real game schedule planned either, so after the decision to make the team, a few schools that had JV teams were called and asked if they would play. At this point there are about six games planned for the girls JV team, and five have already been played.

The team was not established for playing many games, it was created mostly for the players to practice, become better players, work on skills, and have a better chance at making Varsity next year. The whole idea was to let them better their talents so that they don't go to waste, so that they might learn more of the sport. In an overall view the team was a great idea for up and coming players.

The team is 0-5 after losing to St. Thomas Timberlane Souhegan, and a double header against Exeter. While the team might seem to be taking on the rep of the Varsity team, there is still a lot of talent to be seen.

Is the Athlete of the Month choice a fair process??

Commentary by Kelly Deforest

Each month an athlete is chosen for "Athlete of the Month." Are the athletes chosen really deserving of such an award, or is there some bias in the choosing of the athletes?

This year ten of the fifteen athletes chosen have been a part of the Athletic Council. The Athletic Council is in charge of choosing the "Athletes of the Month." When choosing athletes, do the council members really look at the recommendations or do they just look at the athlete, and the sport he or she plays?

Why is it that cross country, indoor track, and spring track only have three athletes that have won the award, when they are the teams who are repeatedly breaking records?

It seems like the council chooses the athletes who play the most popular sports, though Mr. Nichols said, "sometimes I disagree with the athlete council choice, but I keep it to myself. Anytime a vote is taken there is a chance that popularity will enter into it as well as the facts." At the beginning of the year, five out of the six athletes chosen played soccer. In November after boys soccer had ended, a runner was chosen to be Athlete of the Month. Are people who play something other then soccer not deserving of the award? Maybe the players chosen are deserving of the award, but why is it that so many of them play the sports that are the most popular in the school?

Why is it that during the winter for the boys, they were all hockey players? Do boys basketball, track and swimming not have athletes who deserve the award? Is it the teams that have the best records that have athletes chosen for "Athlete of the Month"?

What are the requirements for being "Athlete of the Month"? Is it showing a strong performance, good leadership skills, and a good attitude, or is it what sport you play and if you are on Athletic Council?

O.R. Sports

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OR Tennis: Impressive Record

by **Vicki Walker**

Not even the weather could stop the Oyster River Tennis team from defeating Timberlane in a double header on May 12. This game was just one example of the teams' strength. With a 12-1 record for the boys and 10-1 for the female team,they are not having any trouble working their way to State Championships.

There is only one team with a better record at this point, and that is Hanover who stands undefeated with 11-0. But not to worry.

The double header against Timberlane resulted in the boys 11 wins in singles, with victories by Cliff Dawnis, Josh Jenkins, Chris Davis, Darren Miler, Chris Cloitre, Win Puffer, and Chris Wesley. The doubles were a success as well, with all three wins played by Josh Jenkins and Cliff Dawnis, Darren Miller and Chris Cloitre, and Chris Wesley and Zack Cattell.

The girls' performance proved to be just as strong as the guys with 10 total wins. With victories in singles from Jen Friel, Mali Welch, Jaime Smith, Sarah Gooze, Krista Pool, and Lindsay Crow. There was also a sweep in doubles, with three wins from Jill Shapiro and Jen Friel, Jaime Smith and Sarah Gooze, and Mali Welch and Krista Pool.

The question to ask here is why are they so good? It was a consensus of the team that the reason for their success was a result of getting along really well, consistent playing, and not having any bad competition against others on the team. Foreign exchange student Paula Ramis says she feels part of the group, even though she hasn't known the team members that long. "Everyone is nice to each other, and they help you out. There's no bad competition. I feel like a part of this team."

Mali Welch feels, "We are a really consistent team and we get along really well in and out of tennis."

Jen Friel, who stands #3 on the team says, "We just take it one game at a time and our coaches are really supportive; they push us to succeed."

The most important factor for the team's success seems to be Coach Craig's early recruiting of young tennis players in the middle school. This is how Cliff Dawnis got started in tennis. Coach Craig taught him and many others on the tennis team in middle school how to play tennis. "It's kind of like getting a head start, so by the time you're in high school, and on the team, you'll already know how to play fairly well."

Coach Tim Craig feels the teams are doing really well as a result of positive thinking. "I think that the boys team this year is the best that Oyster River has ever had."

The boys team has come to more of a surprise than the girls team, with so many recruited underclassmen. Josh Jenkins sums it up in his words, "The girls were predicted to win from the beginning. We were supposed to be a building team with only two seniors. I really love the way Darren Miller shakes his butt when he plays but, We were not supposed to be really good until our senior year."

If the boys tennis team continues at the rate they started at they should be sensational by their senior year. As for the girls team, the seniors will be missed but the underclass women will be able to pick up where they left off without any difficulties.

Boys Track contends for title; Girls Track improving

by **Jeff Stacy**

As the boys track team hopes for a shot at the state championship, a young girls team works hard and continues to improve.

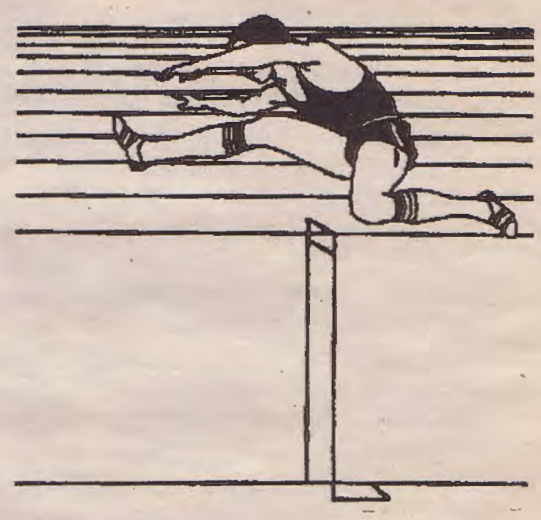
"We have a definite shot at the states. There is no one team that stands out," says Garrick Olson of the boys team. Each track meet has only been decided by a few points, which shows how close the teams are this year. An advantage for this year's team is their experience. The team is carrying 23 seniors which could prove valuable come time for the State Meet. "It's really exciting to be in the running for the state championship." comments senior Patrick Russell.

"All around hard work and dedication is what makes this years team so competitive," says Bill Simmons. "Many team members run cross country, winter track and spring track which shows the commitment they have for their sport," Bill adds.

As the season winds down the boys team hopes to qualify more runners for the state meet. Patrick Russell, Russ Warren, Mike Northrop, Kyle Krouse, Eric Harter, Garrick Olson, Phil Nazzaro, Aaron Payson (Discus), and Marc Myslevy (Javelin) have qualified so far, while the rest of the team hopes to qualify at the Hanover meet.

The girls team has been very successful despite the small number of runners they have. This years team only has 12 members, which may be better than in the past, but is still not enough to be competitive. "It is tough to win any meet with only twelve runners," commented one of the members of the team.

The girls team is sending two runners to the state meet, and more hope to qualify saturday at the hanover meet. Holly MacKay qualified in the triple jump, and Ashling LaMarque qualified in the 300 meter hurdles.



The girls have improved a lot with there new coach Alison Cohen and their future looks bright for next year.